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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DUNKIN' DONUTS FRANCHISED
RESTAURANTS LLC, DD IP HOLDER
LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company,
DD IP HOLDER LLC, a Delaware Limited
Liability Company, BASKIN-ROBBINS
FRANCHISED SHOPS LLC, a Delaware
Limited Liability Company, and BR IP
HOLDER LLC,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SUNDRAM, INC., a New York Corporation,
SATYAM SHIVAM, INC., (now known as
Satyam Eastchester LLC), a New York
Corporation, SHIVAM SUNDRAM, INC.
(now known as Shivam Bruckner LLC), a
New York Corporation, TKNY PARTNERS,
LLC, a New York Limited Liability Company,
ANIL TIKU, a resident of Massachusetts, and
PRAN TIKU, a resident of Massachusetts,

Defendants.

07-CV-11134 (RJH)

**ANSWER OF PRAN TIKU TO
AMENDED COMPLAINT WITH
COUNTERCLAIM**

Defendant Pran Tiku, by his attorney, Einbinder & Dunn, LLP, as and for his answer to the amended complaint herein alleges as follows:

1. Answering paragraph 1, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

2. Answering paragraph 2, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

3. Answering paragraph 3, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

4. Answering paragraph 4, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

5. Answering paragraph 5, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

6. Answering paragraph 6, Tiku admits the allegations contained therein.

7. Answering paragraph 7, Tiku admits the allegations contained therein.

8. Answering paragraph 8, Tiku admits the allegations contained therein.

9. Answering paragraph 9, Tiku admits the allegations contained therein.

10. Answering paragraph 10, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

11. Answering paragraph 11, Tiku admits the allegations contained therein.

12. Answering paragraph 12, Tiku respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

13. Answering paragraph 13, Tiku respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

14. Answering paragraph 14, Tiku respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

15. Answering paragraph 15, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

16. Answering paragraph 16, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

17. Answering paragraph 17, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein and respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

18. Answering paragraph 18, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

19. Answering paragraph 19, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

20. Answering paragraph 20, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

21. Answering paragraph 21, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

22. Answering paragraph 22, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

23. Answering paragraph 23, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

24. Answering paragraph 24, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein and respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

25. Answering paragraph 25, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

26. Answering paragraph 26, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein and respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

27. Answering paragraph 27, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

28. Answering paragraph 28, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

29. Answering paragraph 29, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the document referred to for its true terms and legal effect.

30. Answering paragraph 30, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein and respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

31. Answering paragraph 31, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

32. Answering paragraph 32, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

33. Answering paragraph 33, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

34. Answering paragraph 34, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

35. Answering paragraph 35, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

36. Answering paragraph 36, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

37. Answering paragraph 37, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

38. Answering paragraph 38, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

39. Answering paragraph 39, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

40. Answering paragraph 40, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

41. Answering paragraph 41, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

42. Answering paragraph 42, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

43. Answering paragraph 43, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

44. Answering paragraph 44, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

45. Answering paragraph 45, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect and respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

46. Answering paragraph 46, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect and respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

47. Answering paragraph 47, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect and respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

48. Answering paragraph 48, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect and respectfully refers questions of law to the Court.

49. Answering paragraph 49, Tiku admits the existence of a Multiple Unit Store Development Agreement and respectfully refers the Court to the document referred to for its true terms and legal effect. Tiku denies the remainder of the allegations contained therein.

50. Answering paragraph 50, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein

51. Answering paragraph 51, Tiku admits that the plaintiffs tendered to certain purported notice but respectfully refers the Court to that document for its contents and legal effect.

52. Answering paragraph 52, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein

53. Answering paragraph 53, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

54. Answering paragraph 54, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

55. Answering paragraph 55, Tiku respectfully refers the Court to the documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

56. Answering paragraph 56, Tiku avers that he paid all required fees to the plaintiffs and respectfully refers the Court to those documents referred to for their true terms and legal effect.

57. Answering paragraph 57, Tiku admits that the plaintiffs tendered to Tiku certain purported notice but respectfully refers the Court to that document for its contents and legal effect.

58. Answering paragraph 58, Tiku avers that he paid all required fees to the plaintiffs and that if any fees were paid late, the default was *de minimis*.

59. Answering paragraph 59, Tiku admits that the plaintiffs tendered certain purported notice but respectfully refers the Court to that document for its contents and legal effect.

60. Answering paragraph 60, Tiku denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained therein.

61. Answering paragraph 61, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

62. Answering paragraph 62, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

63. Answering paragraph 63, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

64. Answering paragraph 64, Tiku admits that the plaintiffs tendered certain purported notice but respectfully refers the Court to that document for its contents and legal effect.

65. Answering paragraph 65, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 64 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

66. Answering paragraph 66, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

67. Answering paragraph 67, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

68. Answering paragraph 68, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

69. Answering paragraph 69, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 68 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

70. Answering paragraph 70, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

71. Answering paragraph 71, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

72. Answering paragraph 72, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 71 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

73. Answering paragraph 73, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

74. Answering paragraph 74, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

75. Answering paragraph 75, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

76. Answering paragraph 76, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 75 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

77. Answering paragraph 77, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

78. Answering paragraph 78, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

79. Answering paragraph 79, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

80. Answering paragraph 80, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 79 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

81. Answering paragraph 81, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

82. Answering paragraph 82, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

83. Answering paragraph 83, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

84. Answering paragraph 84, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 83 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

85. Answering paragraph 85, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

86. Answering paragraph 86, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

87. Answering paragraph 87, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

88. Answering paragraph 88, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 87 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

89. Answering paragraph 89, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

90. Answering paragraph 90, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

91. Answering paragraph 91, Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 90 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

92. Answering paragraph 92, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

93. Answering paragraph 93, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

94. Answering paragraph 94, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

95. Answering paragraph 95, Tiku denies each and every allegation contained therein.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

96. The plaintiffs have failed to state a cause of action upon which relief may be granted.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

97. The plaintiffs improperly terminated the franchise agreements and the SDA agreements referred to in the Complaint.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

98. The plaintiffs' claims are barred by the doctrines of unclean hands, laches, waiver, and acquiescence.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

99. The plaintiffs have not suffered and will not suffer irreparable harm as a result of the alleged conduct by Tiku referred to in the Complaint. Moreover, the plaintiffs have adequate remedies at law with respect to their claims, and the balance of the equities favors Tiku.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

100. Tiku's performance under the relevant agreements was excused by reason of the plaintiffs' prior breaches of the agreements.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

101. The plaintiffs have failed to mitigate their damages.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

102. The plaintiffs' notice(s) of termination and the complaint are pretexts and were issued in bad faith and in violation of the law.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

103. The plaintiffs' claims are barred by virtue of the unenforceability of certain provisions of the agreements between the parties upon which the plaintiffs purport to rely.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

103. To the extent that any conduct alleged had occurred and constituted a violation, such conduct was cured before the date of the notice of default and termination given by the plaintiffs. To the extent that the plaintiffs allege that any defendant committed any violation, no conduct on the part of any defendant was in contravention of any law.

AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE AND COUNTERCLAIM

103. Tiku repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 102 hereof as if stated fully hereat.

104. Upon information and belief, the plaintiffs are currently undertaking an illegal, invidious, and discriminatory scheme to disenfranchise minority franchisees.

105. Upon information and belief, the plaintiffs are enforcing the default provisions of minority franchisees' franchise agreements, terminating the franchises of minorities for *de minimis* purported violations or inadvertent errors, while turning a blind eye to violations of contract and law of preferred, non-minority franchisees, sometimes aiding and abetting these violations.

106. Upon information and belief, the plaintiffs have terminated and continue to seek termination of the franchises of minority franchisees, not limited to Tiku herein, citing minor violations of a minority franchisee at one unit and then, relying on the "cross-default" provision of the franchise agreement, terminating all of a minority franchisee's agreements. The plaintiffs then offer the available units to preferred non-minority franchisees.

107. The actions of the plaintiffs are intentionally discriminatory and violate 42 U.S.C. § 1981.

WHEREFORE defendant Pran Tiku prays for judgment dismissing the amended complaint in its entirety and granting him his counterclaim a monetary sum to be determined at trial as compensatory damages plus interest; punitive damages; attorney's fees; costs and disbursements; an injunction enjoining the unlawful conduct of the plaintiffs; and such other and further relief as to the Court might seem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
February 11, 2008

EINBINDER & DUNN, LLP

By: 

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